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Bangalore Mirror

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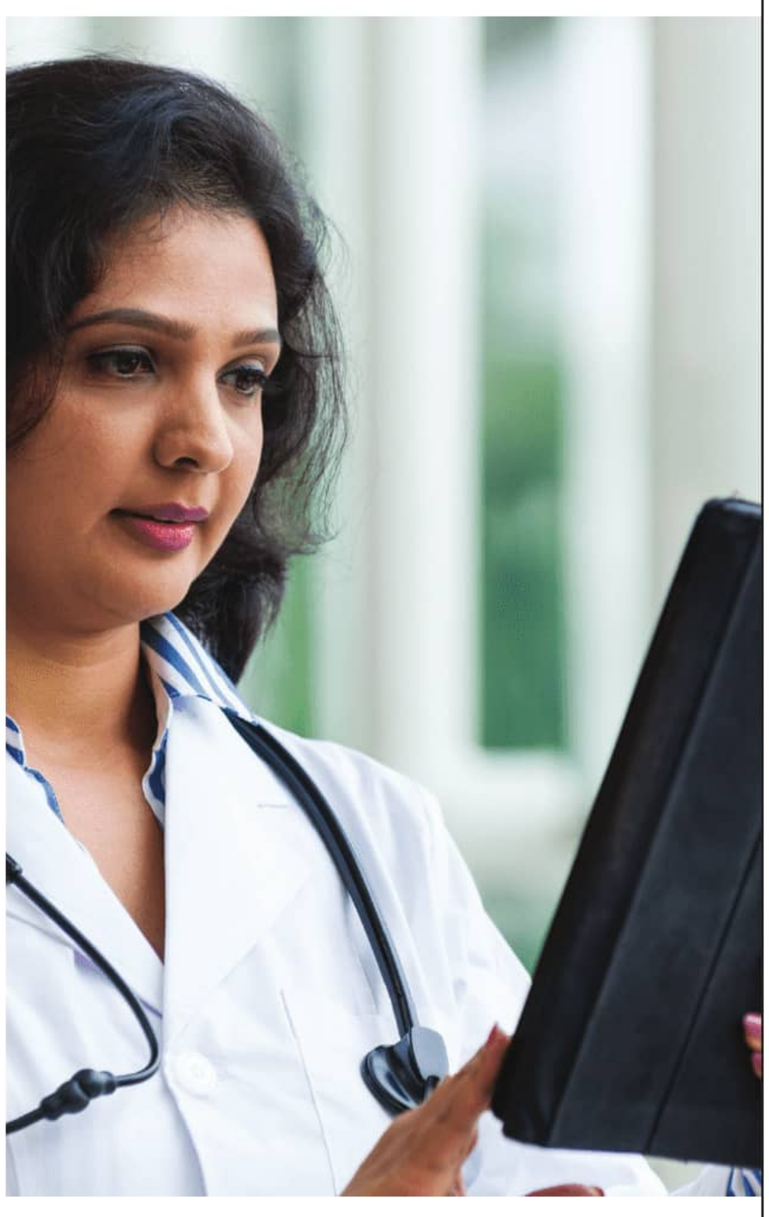

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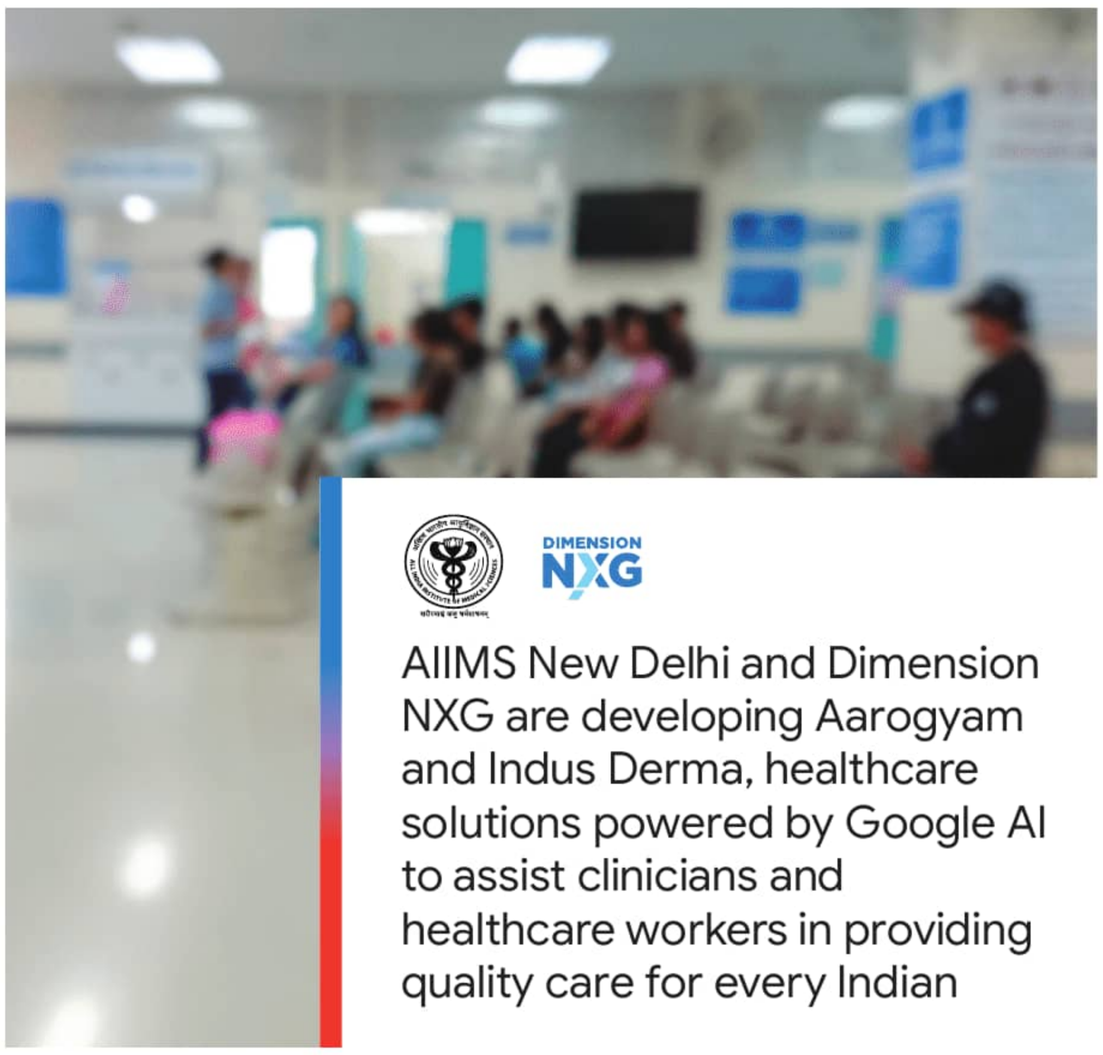

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PROMISE OF EQUALITY

'People's Draft' of Rohith Vemula Act submitted after two years of consultations so why is govt hesitating to roll it out, ask student leaders and activists

PAGE 2

AIM FOR EIGHT

Zimbabwe enter Super 8s after rain washes out play against Ireland; New Zealand's resounding victory knocks Afghanistan out; Netherlands excited about today

PAGE 7

Of 807 fatal road accidents in 2025, 286 occurred in North Bengaluru; police say in most cases speeding, ignorance about traffic rules, not wearing helmet are proving to be costly mistakes

DEADLY CRASHES ARE GOING NORTH

Many inner roads run through Gram Panchayat areas

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Bengaluru witnessed more than two deaths in road accidents every day in 2025. While the city recorded 807 fatal road accidents in the year, more than 35% of these accidents occurred in North Bengaluru.

As many as 286 accidents occurred in the North division, followed by 194 in the South, 170 in the East, and 157 in the West division. Moreover, the majority of the accidents were recorded at Yelahanka traffic police station (54), followed by Chikkajala (48), Devanahalli airport station (42), Electronic city (40), and KR Pura (34).

As many as 251 out of the total 807 accidents were in December.

Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) attributes high accident severity in the area to a combination of factors like speeding, ignorance about traffic rules, and recklessness.

According to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, North, Bengaluru Traffic Police, the majority of these accidents turned out to be fatal because the victims

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

File photo of a vehicle pile-up on Airport Road

"Locals, especially those under Gram Panchayat limits, are either unaware of traffic rules or ignore the importance of safe driving through the use of helmets, seat belts, and traffic rules —DCP North

Shade for all

Citizen-led campaign pushes for reinstating extended park hours from 5 am to 10 pm as temperature rises and shaded spaces become crucial for health, equity

Iffath.Fathima
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As the city grapples with rising temperatures, a citizen-led campaign has been launched to reinstate extended park hours in South Bengaluru. With climate change, rapid urbanisation, and the urban heat island effect pushing Bengaluru's summer temperatures higher, access to shaded public spaces has become a pressing need, say citizens, especially for those who spend long hours outdoors.

On Tuesday, the city recorded 35.9°C, the hottest day in February in 20 years. Over the last two decades, Bengaluru's average temperature has risen by about 1.5°C, fueled by the loss of lakes, green cover, and fast-paced development. Parks, experts say, act as vital green infrastructure, providing thermal comfort, shade, and a safe place for rest.

Residents staying in and around south Bengaluru pointed out extended park hours had been introduced citywide from 5 am to 10 pm in 2023-24. However, in December 2025, the GBA South Zone issued a rollback order for many parks, citing low footfall and misuse. Despite no official citywide reversal, residents report that several parks remain locked during mid-day hours when shaded spaces are most needed.

To address this, HeatWatch Foundation and The Indian Ploggers Army have

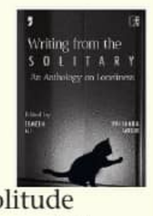
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Confluence of ideas

Alliance University will host the 2026 edition of the Alliance Literary Festival, ALF, and Alliance ONE, bringing together leading voices from cinema, public life, journalism, law and performance. **Where: Alliance University, Alliance School of Liberal Arts, Anekal; When: February 19 to 21, 9 am to 9.30 pm**

02 Echoes of solitude



Atta Galatta is bringing a session inviting participants to explore how isolation can be transformed into powerful literary expression. The workshop focuses on the nuances of solitude and loneliness as creative catalysts. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: Feb 21, 4 pm**

03 Shopping spree

An exhibition jointly organised by Grand Flea Market and Indian Artisans Bazaar showcases Indian traditional and modern handicrafts, home décor items, and traditional attire from various states — all under one roof. **Where: Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram; When: Until March 1**

04 Walks of life

Atta Galatta is hosting the launch of 'Busy Women' by Shinjini Kumar, an insightful and engaging exploration of contemporary India beyond its metropolitan centres, based on extensive travel across thirty cities and conversations with over 300 women. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: February 21, 6.30 pm**

05 Stories in store

Ranga Shankara returns with its signature intimate storytelling programme, Little Cloud, packed with an enchanting experience of creativity, laughter and imagination. The sessions are held for children aged 4 to 6 every Saturday and Sunday. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: Until March 15, 10 am**

Campaign urges govt to table Rohith Vemula Act

Activists condemn delay in implementation of Act, deeming it essential for eliminating caste-based discrimination and providing equal opportunities in higher education

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File photo of protests demanding implementation of Rohith Vemula Act

Activists and student leaders under the banner of the Campaign for Rohith Vemula Act on Monday urged the Karnataka government to immediately release the draft of the proposed Rohith Vemula Act for public consultation and table it in the upcoming Budget Session of the Assembly. Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on February 17, members of the campaign said they had prepared a "People's Draft" of the legislation after two years of consultations aimed at ensuring equal educational opportunities for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students and eliminating caste-based discrimination in higher education institutions. The draft, they said, has already been submitted to the government, but has not yet been made public.

Mavalli Shankar, State Convener of the Dalit Sangharsh Samiti (Ambedkarvada), criticised the delay. "The state government has already promised to implement the Rohith Act. It is regrettable that the draft has not yet been made public or brought up for discussion in the Assembly. This Act is essential to ensure equal opportunities in higher education for Dalit and Adivasi students. We must ensure the implementation of the Act in Karnataka, a demand born from the student movement against the 'institutional murder' of Rohith Vemula," he said.

Rohith Vemula, a research scholar at the University of Hyderabad, died by suicide in January 2016, triggering nationwide protests over caste discrimination in higher education institutions. "The People's Draft was submitted to IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge, followed by consultations with Law Minister HK Patil and Higher Education Minister MC Sudhakar. The Campaign members were informed that the government had accepted this model bill with minor amendments, which we welcomed. Given this, why is the government hesitating to implement the Act?" said senior Dalit movement activist Basavaraj Kouthal.

Ashna Singh, Assistant Professor at the National Law School of India University, who conducted research for the draft, said Karnataka had a history of progressive legislation aimed at dismantling caste hierarchies. "This land has a history of protecting the interests of Dalits, Adivasis, and Bahujans through special laws like PTCL, KTPP, the abolition of the Devadasi system, and anti-social boycott laws. In this same spirit, the implementation of the Rohith Act is a necessity," she said.

Rahu, Convener of the Ambedkar Students' Association (GKVK), invoked Vemula's final letter. "In his final letter, Rohith Vemula wrote about scientific thought. Caste discrimination and violence are contrary to scientific thinking. While upholding Rohith's legacy, we must protect the future of Dalit-Adivasi students. Through this movement, we have conducted consultations with students and professors following a democratic process. We must uphold democracy by bringing in pro-people laws; for the first time, a draft created by the people themselves is ready and must be implemented," he said. The Campaign warned that it would launch a massive protest if the state government fails to table the Rohith Vemula Act in the upcoming Budget Session.

'Separate licence not required for screening films'

The Karnataka High Court has held that cinema theatres do not require a separate trade licence under municipal laws solely for the purpose of exhibiting films. The ruling came while allowing a petition filed by a theatre operator challenging a demand issued by a municipal authority that insisted on obtaining a trade licence under the Karnataka Municipalities Act. The petitioner contended that film exhibition is already regulated by a special legislation — the Karnataka Cinemas (Regulation) Act, 1964 — and therefore does not fall within the scope of trades that require licensing under municipal law. A bench led by Justice Suraj Govindaraj agreed with this submission. However, the court clarified that this relief applies only to the exhibition of films. **— BMB**

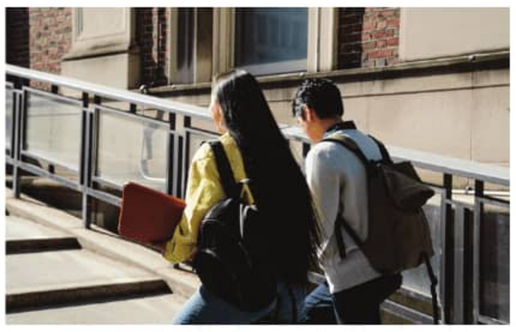
HC refuses intervention, suggests alternatives in case of police inaction

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday declined to intervene in a petition filed by a woman who alleged that she had been cheated of Rs 1.45 lakh by a religious figure. The court, however, granted her liberty to pursue other remedies available under the law. After hearing the matter, the court observed that if the police fail to take action, she could escalate the matter before senior police officials or approach the jurisdictional magistrate seeking appropriate directions. In view of the availability of these statutory remedies, the court refrained from issuing any direct instructions to the police and formally closed the proceedings while preserving the petitioner's right to pursue alternative legal avenues. **— BMB**

AI system to track student attendance in government schools and PU colleges

In a major digital push, the Karnataka government has made AI based facial recognition attendance compulsory for students in all government and aided schools and pre-university colleges from the 2026-27 academic year. The order, issued to the Education Department, states that while digital attendance for teachers has already been mandated and must be implemented properly from this year, the AI-driven system will be extended to students from the next academic session. The move aims to streamline attendance, track absenteeism and curb dropouts using technology.

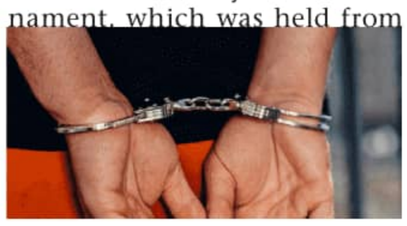
The state has approved the rollout of an AI-based student facial monitoring system developed by the e-Governance Department at a cost of Rs 2.16 crore. The



system must be ready for implementation before the start of the 2026-27 academic year. Officials have been instructed to ensure the technology works in all conditions, including low light, and accurately captures attendance without errors. Student registration will be integrated with the SATS database, and daily attendance data will be made publicly accessible through the software. Authorities have also been directed to complete training of officials and staff by May and use the system to closely monitor prolonged absences and prevent students from dropping out. **— BMB**

Woman secretly filmed, blackmailed by unknown man

A 32-year-old woman alleged that she was filmed without her knowledge in a restroom at Koramangala Indoor Stadium during the Women's Throwball and Cricket tournament. She also claimed that she is being blackmailed by the unidentified individual who is demanding her money and private video calls. The victim, who hails from Yelahanka, filed a complaint with the Cyber Crime Police on February 13. According to her, the incident took place on the second day of the tournament, which was held from February 6 to 8. The police are closely tracking the root of the matter, and further investigation is underway.



Obscene comments prompt complaint

A 36-year-old woman alleged that a group of unidentified men made sexual advances at her. According to the FIR, the complainant, an employee of a private company, had gone out for dinner with a male friend in Indiranagar, when a group of men came in a car and started passing obscene comments at her without any provocation. The men allegedly made lewd comments, which left the victim humiliated and shocked. Further investigation is underway.

CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

Man booked for rape attempt

A 59-year-old man allegedly tried to lure and sexually assault a three-year-old girl on Monday afternoon. He was caught by residents, beaten, and then handed over to the police. According to the police, the accused is from Odisha and was staying in a rented house next to the victim's place. The incident is said to have happened around noon when the girl was playing outside her house alone. With the help of neighbours, the parents tracked down the man along with the girl child. They assaulted him before handing him over to the police, who have registered a case under the POCSO Act. **— BMB**

Serving time for serving thief

A 36-year-old domestic help has been arrested for allegedly stealing 210 grams of gold jewellery worth ₹30 lakh from her employer's house in South Bengaluru.

The complainant, a resident of Doddakallasandra under the limits of the Konanakunte Police Station, filed a complaint on February 3, 2026. He reported that gold ornaments kept in a cupboard went missing on February 2. He suspected the domestic help, who had been working at his residence for eight months. Police registered a case of house theft and began an investigation.

On February 4, police secured the accused, identified as Deepa, from her residence in Doddakallasandra. During interrogation, she allegedly confessed to the crime. She was produced before a court on February 5 and taken into five-day police custody.

During sustained questioning, Deepa revealed that part of the stolen gold had been pledged at a jewellery shop in Gubbalala, some ornaments had been given to friends, and the remaining items were kept at her house. Acting on her information, police recovered the entire 210 grams of gold between February 6 and 8. She was later remanded in judicial custody. —BMB

House hunter turns gold snatcher

A 42-year-old man who allegedly posed as a prospective tenant has been arrested by the Whitefield Police Station in connection with a burglary in Nagondanahalli, where 348 grams of gold jewellery worth ₹55 lakh was stolen.

According to police, the complainant locked his house on the morning of February 11, 2026, and left the key in a shoe rack outside for his children. When he returned in the evening, he found the door open and discovered that gold jewellery kept in a wardrobe had been stolen.

A case of house burglary was registered, and during investigation, police received a tip-off and arrested Kiran Raj, a photo studio worker near Varthur Kodi, on February 13.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly confessed, stating he had come to the area searching for a rented house and noticed the key hidden in the shoe rack. He later used it to enter the house and commit the theft. The entire 348 grams of stolen gold was recovered from his residence.

He was produced before a court and remanded in judicial custody. During a press conference, the commissioner cautioned residents against leaving house keys under flower pots or in shoe racks. —BMB

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Fake force, real robbery

Gun-wielding duo restrain residents, flee with valuables and surveillance recorder, prompting fresh safety advisory across neighbourhoods

In a shocking incident, two armed men posing as policemen barged into the house of a realtor and looted 20 lakh in cash and nearly half a kilogram of gold ornaments in broad daylight at BEL Layout, under the limits of Byadarahalli Police Station, on Monday afternoon.

The incident has raised questions about how residents can verify the identity of officials visiting their homes, particularly as initiatives such as Mane Mane Policing involve officers conducting second-round visits as part of community policing efforts. The top cop has instructed police personnel to mandatorily show their identity cards to citizens before carrying out routine checks.

According to police officials, the victim, 53-year-old Hombale Gowda, was at home with his wife, Mangalamma, and their two-and-a-half-year-old grandson when the accused arrived. According to the complaint, the duo claimed to be policemen from Yelahanka. One of the accused was clad in a sub-inspector uniform and carried a diary, while the other was seen

with a bag similar to those typically used by Crime Branch officials.

After gaining entry, the men allegedly brandished a gun and a knife, threatening the couple. They locked Gowda inside a room and tied both him and his wife with tape around their hands and legs. The accused then entered the bedroom and decamped with ₹20 lakh in cash and around half a kilogram of gold jewellery.

Gowda reportedly pleaded with the robbers to spare his wife's mangalya (sacred wedding chain), which they left behind. Before fleeing, the accused snatched the victims' mobile phones and took away the CCTV DVR to prevent identification. Gowda later managed to free himself, alert neighbours and inform the police.

Senior police officials, including DCP Nagesh, visited the spot for inspection.

A case has been registered at Byadarahalli Police Station, and a manhunt has been launched. Police have intensified the ongoing Mane Mane Policing drive, which takes around three months to cover the entire city, Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh said, noting that residents are now largely aware of the initiative.

Following the recent incident, citizens have been urged to verify officers' identity cards and credentials before allowing entry, and to call 112 in case of suspicion.

DCP (North West) Nagesh said the Commissioner has instructed officers under the Mane Mane Policing initiative to voluntarily display their identity cards during home visits. Acknowledging concerns over forged IDs, he advised residents to verify credentials by contacting their local police station. He also clarified that residents are not obliged to let officers inside and may interact with them outside their homes. —BMB

Gold snatch ends in breathless chase

A 35-year-old constable from the City Armed Reserve chased down and arrested a 20-year-old chain-snatching suspect after a 1.5-kilometre pursuit near the railway underpass at Bapuji Nagar on February 5. According to police, Dakshayini, a schoolteacher, was walking home at around 7.20 pm when an unidentified man approached her from behind on 8th Main Road and snatched her 40-gram gold necklace, valued at ₹6 lakh, before fleeing. Constable Hanumantha Putani (APC-18643), who was on his way to the CID headquarters for night duty, heard her cries for help and immediately gave chase. He pursued the suspect along the railway underpass stretch for nearly 1.5 kilometres. With assistance from bystanders, he managed to restrain the accused and alerted the control room. Hoysala police soon arrived and took the suspect into custody. A case was registered at Vijayanagar Police Station under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The accused, Syed Jafar, was remanded in judicial custody. Further investigation is under way. —BMB

Speeding bike crashes into, kills man

A 27-year-old private bank employee was killed in a road accident involving a speeding motorcycle on Rajkumar Road in Rajajinagar on Monday afternoon. The deceased has been identified as Yogeshwari, a resident of Kempegowda Layout near Laggere. Yogeshwari was working at a branch of HDFC Bank located on Rajkumar Road. According to police, the accident occurred at around 12.30 pm near the bank premises. She had stepped out with a colleague to collect lunch. While returning, the two attempted to cross the busy stretch of road. Police said the colleague noticed an oncoming motorcycle and stopped midway. However, Yogeshwari reportedly tried to cross, assuming she could make it safely. At that moment, a speeding Bullet motorcycle, ridden by Deepan (21), rammed into her. The impact threw her onto the road, leaving her critically injured. She was rushed to a private hospital but succumbed to her injuries. Her body was sent to Victoria Hospital for post-mortem. The rider, who was also injured, is undergoing treatment. Rajajinagar Traffic Police have registered a case and are investigating. —BMB

Property dispute turns fatal

A 70-year-old retired employee of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) was allegedly beaten to death by his son over a property dispute in Indiranagar on Monday. The incident occurred on Saturday night when Munikrishnappa had stepped out to walk his pet dog. According to the police, his son, Mohan Kumar, allegedly confronted him, and the argument soon turned violent. Mohan Kumar is said to have attacked his father with a hockey stick and an iron rod, inflicting grievous injuries. Munikrishnappa collapsed due to heavy bleeding. The deceased, who owned crores in property and had family disputes over inheritance. He later died in hospital. Based on a complaint by his daughter-in-law, police arrested the accused and formed special teams to probe possible involvement of other family members. —BMB

Tweet storm over targeted image

A complaint has been lodged with High Grounds Police alleging that an objectionable and provocative post was shared from the verified X handle of BJP Assam Pradesh. According to the complaint filed by Ranjith Kumar R (36) on February 8, 2026, the incident occurred on the evening of February 7, while he was browsing social media at the KPCC office on Queens Road in Bengaluru. At around 7 pm, he came across a post from the verified handle "BJP Assam Pradesh" (@BJP4Assam). The post, captioned "Point Bank Shot…", allegedly showed Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sharma pointing a gun at individuals dressed like members of the Muslim community.

Ranjith Kumar alleged the post incites hatred against a religious minority, naming BJP Assam's social media coordinators. Police are examining the matter. —BMB

Infant's body found in waste

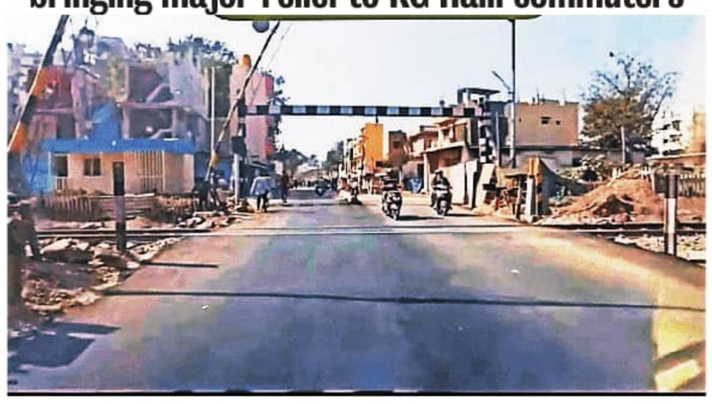
A newborn baby was found dead after allegedly being dumped in a rubbish heap within the Subramanyapura police station limits on Monday evening, marking the second such case reported this month. The incident came to light around 7.50 pm when three boys spotted a baby's body near a rubbish heap behind Purnapragnya Layout Apartment in Uttarahalli and alerted a passer-by, who called 112. The Hoysala patrol confirmed the infant was dead. Police believe the baby was dumped two days earlier. An unnatural death case has been registered, and CCTV footage is being reviewed. Earlier, on February 10, another newborn was found dead on Seshadripuram Main Road. —BMB

Crystal Meth heist hits turbulence

A foreign national was arrested by Customs officials at the airport on February 17, 2026 for allegedly attempting to smuggle methamphetamine in crystal form. According to officials, the accused has been identified as Veronica Emmanuel, a Nigerian national. She arrived on a domestic flight from New Delhi at 2.05 am. During the inspection of passengers arriving from New Delhi, Customs officers became suspicious and subjected her to a detailed check. Officials allegedly recovered around 2.5 kg of crystal meth from her possession, which is worth crores in the illicit market, were seized under the NDPS Act. The accused has been taken into custody, and further investigation is under way. —BMB

Smooth ride returns at KG Halli crossing

Swift asphalting restores smooth traffic flow, bringing major relief to KG Halli commuters



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Thousands of motorists and pedestrians have welcomed the swift action taken by the Bengaluru Central City Corporation and South Western Railway authorities to asphalt the road at the KG Halli railway level crossing. The crossing is one of five critical points that required urgent attention, as commuters had been facing severe inconvenience for nearly a month due to loose gravel and poor road conditions.

Bangalore Mirror had earlier published a report titled Rocky barrier blues bring bumper misery on February 14, highlighting how five choke points in Sarvagna Nagar had triggered anger among daily commuters and residents' associations.

Thanking the authorities, Mohammed Ansar, Vice-President of the Nagawara Residential Welfare Association, said the move had brought much-needed relief. He urged officials to asphalt all railway level crossings to help thousands of commuters struggling due to gravel laid along the tracks. "I am happy to see vehicular traffic moving without any hassles at KG Halli railway level crossing," he said.

Auto-rickshaw drivers and two-wheeler riders also expressed relief after the repairs. One autorickshaw driver said crossing the railway track had earlier been extremely difficult, especially during peak hours. "Now, it is easy to cross this level crossing," he said.

Echoing similar views, two-wheeler rider Manohar N said many people had suffered injuries after their vehicles skidded on loose gravel. He clarified that commuters were not against railway improvement works but stressed the need to minimise inconvenience. "Now, it is a relief for two-wheeler riders and autorickshaw drivers. I thank all those responsible for asphalting the road," he said.

Bangalore Mirror
Rocky barrier blues bring bumper misery

BM report exposed five Sarvagna Nagar choke points, angering daily commuters and residents

Neglected Kalkere Lake finally set for rejuvenation

Inspection visit confirms restoration plans, residents hopeful proactive measures will revive once-thriving Kalkere Lake ecosystem soon

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Residents accompanying Executive Engineer Arpita at Kalkere Lake

Residents of Kalkere and surrounding areas have welcomed the positive response from the Executive Engineer (Lakes), who visited Kalkere Lake and assured them that another meeting would be held with all stakeholders to discuss its rejuvenation. The lake, once a thriving waterbody, has turned into a sinking swamp due to years of neglect. Bangalore Mirror published a report titled 'From sparkling Sarovara to sinking swamp' on February 16, highlighting how encroachments, cut saplings, and a broken bund exposed official apathy despite crores being sanctioned for revival works.

On Tuesday, a group of residents gathered at Kalkere Lake to meet Executive Engineer CP Arpita and accompanied her on an inspection of the waterbody. During the visit, officials observed the lake's deteriorating condition. It is understood that the Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) has decided to address sewage inflow into the lake and restore fencing to prevent further encroachment.

"I am happy to accompany Executive Engineer Arpita around the lake. She has assured us that developmental works will be taken up. I am confident about the rejuvenation of the lake under her supervision because she was very positive and proactive during the inspection," said Manjula TH, a resident of Kalkere.

Mohammed Shafi, President of RKBR Enclave, said Kanaka Sarovara has long been an ecological and social asset for residents. "Unfortunately, prolonged neglect, unclean pathways, unmanaged garbage, and lack of maintenance caused severe deterioration. However, the recent inspection and firm assurances mark a turning point. Following our continuous meetings with officials and persistent highlighting of the issues, including concerns about Agara Lake, we are pleased to see restoration work beginning. This demonstrates that constructive citizen action can lead to positive change," he said.

He also thanked BECC officials for their prompt response. "Special thanks to Kochu Shankar Sir and Satheesh Chandra Sir for taking leadership and supporting residents to ensure corrective measures begin without delay. This is not just about cleaning a lake, but restoring pride, protecting the environment, and safeguarding natural heritage," he added. Executive Engineer CP Arpita said a joint meeting with all concerned departments would be held within two or three days. "The rejuvenation and developmental works will begin shortly," she said.

Bangalore Mirror
From sparkling Sarovara to sinking swamp

BM report of Feb 16th highlighted encroachments, cut saplings, broken bund despite crores sanctioned for revival works

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Traffic chaos

Katriguppe

Illegal parking and severe congestion at ITI entrance from Kathriguppe Main Road are obstructing traffic movement, making turns unsafe and difficult for commuters.

Plant neglect

Austin Town

Lack of regular watering is causing plants to dry up and wither at Austin Town Park.

Road blockage

Viveknagar

Abandoned cars parked for months on Viveknagar 3rd Cross are blocking road access, hindering emergency vehicle movement.

Karnataka imposes welfare fee on e-transactions

The Karnataka government has issued an official order mandating a welfare fee on every transaction carried out through e-commerce and digital platforms, aimed at securing social protection for lakhs of gig and platform-based workers in the state. The move follows implementation of the Karnataka Platform Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, which provides for creation of a welfare fund to extend financial protection and welfare schemes to workers in the unorganised sector. Under the new rule, all aggregators operating through digital platforms must pay a welfare fee based on the final payout made to workers, covering services such as vehicle bookings, food delivery, logistics, e-marketplaces and professional services.

Sources said that as per Section 20 of the Act, the fee will range between 1 per cent and 5 per cent of the worker's payout, with the government fixing rates and caps. Currently, a 1 per cent fee has been set, subject to limits of 50 paise for two-wheelers, 75 paise for three-wheelers, Rs 1 for four-wheelers and light vehicles, and Rs 1.50 for heavy commercial vehicles and professional services. The fee will be calculated on worker payment after deducting commission. Platforms must deposit the amount quarterly through a system, complying with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. — BMB

Chikkajala in red zone due to night traffic towards airport

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

were not wearing helmets. Moreover, the North division has quite a few inner roads, and some of these are Gram Panchayat areas, where locals tend to ignore traffic regulations, he said. "Locals, especially those under Gram Panchayat limits, are either unaware of traffic rules or ignore the importance of safe driving through the use of helmets, seat belts, and traffic rules. Two-wheeler riders, riding without helmets, driving against the traffic, and triple riding are common sights in these GP pockets," said the DCP.

Officials say the number of accidents in Chikkajala is high due to active night traffic towards the airport. Apart from the airport Expressway, the road from Nagawara junction towards the airport is another stretch that records many fatal accidents.

"We are using speed guns to keep a check on the vehicles going above the prescribed speed limit. Speed guns were not in use for some time due to allegations by the public stating that the speed recorded is inaccurate. However, looking at the large number of accidents in the area, we have started using speed guns in Devanahalli and Chikkajala," added the official.

A surge in the number of road accidents, both fatal and non-fatal, has led to BTP kick-starting a technical analysis of Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road in North Bengaluru.

"We are studying the road curve pattern, considering that a lot of accidents take place on the stretch. We think it might have something to do with the curve pattern of the road and thus the visibility," said DCP.

Withdrawal of subsidies may prove 'death knell' for Sandalwood

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
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FILE PHOTO

Stakeholders baulk at suggestion to withdraw subsidy for Kannada movies, say it would be lethal blow to low, medium-budget films

The proposal to grant Kannada film sector industry status and the recommendation for withdrawal of subsidy for Kannada movies have invited criticism from people associated with Sandalwood. They oppose the opinion of Information and Public Relations Department Commissioner Hemant Nimbalkar to withdraw subsidies for Kannada movies from 2026 after the sector is granted industry status. Nimbalkar suggested incentives for award-winning movies, children's movies and movies recognised by the International Federation of Film Producers Association instead of selecting movies through subsidy committees.

On an average, around 200 Kannada movies are being produced every year and majority of them belong to low and medium-budget categories and only 10 big-budget movies are made a year. The state government has been granting a subsidy of Rs 10 lakh each for 125 Kannada movies including award-winning movies and movies screened at national and international film festivals. Recently, the state government released the subsidy amount for movies released in 2019, 2020, 2021.

Director Nanjunde Gowda said Kannada movies badly need the subsidies. "The Kannada film industry is in a bad condition. Most Kannada movies do not get theaters for screening as many single screen theaters have already been shut down and some more are on the verge of closure. I think the Rs 10 lakh subsidy amount is not sufficient as the cost of production has gone up. I demand the state government to continue the subsidies," said Gowda.

Cinematographer PVR Swamy said the current subsidy scheme has been a great help for low and medium-budget movies. "Many people, including junior artistes, senior artistes, light boys and others associated with film shooting will lose their livelihood if the government withdraws the subsidy scheme. I appeal to the government to continue the scheme," he said.

Describing the proposal as a death knell for Kannada film industry, Krishne Gowda, president, Kannada Film Chamber of Commerce, said the state government can abolish the Industry Status Committee. "Only around 10 or 20 Kannada movies can be made a year if the subsidy scheme is withdrawn. The Information and Public Relations Commissioner did not take the opinion of producers and directors who are making Kannada movies regularly. A few members of the Industry Status Committee have not made any movies in recent years," said Krishne Gowda.

Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce president Jayamala said that she opposes the suggestion of cancelling subsidies. "The KFCC has written to the Commissioner of Information and Public Relations in November 2025. I also met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and submitted a memorandum seeking more infrastructure facilities for the Kannada film industry. I am confident that the CM will continue the subsidies," said Jayamala.

Drug bust: Contraband worth ₹10.59 cr seized

In a joint operation conducted by the Central Crime Bureau (CCB) and City Police, 15 persons, including three foreign nationals, were arrested for selling banned narcotic substances.

A total of 5.677 kg of MDMA, 34 kg of ganja, 9.460 gm of hydro ganja, 29 LSD pills, 27 gm of LSD strips, 131 gm of cocaine, 462ml of hashish oil, one car, one two-wheeler, and four mobile phones were seized, which accounted for Rs 10.59 crore. The contraband would have been sold at the market price of Rs 21.50 crore.

Following a tip-off, the police rounded up the drug dealers and arrested them on charges of smuggling and peddling drugs, learnt to be sourced from Dubai and Thailand. Okiol from Senegal, who posed to have a tourist visa, was one of the three foreign nationals caught in the racket.

The others were rounded up from areas like Amruthahalli, Hebbagodi, JB Nagar, Mahalaxmi Layout, and Govindapura. Out of the 15 arrests made, three were Africans, while some hailed from Kerala. Commissioner of Bengaluru Police Seemant Kumar Singh said city cops are on a vigorous drive to make Bengaluru drug-free, and so such operations are given priority with no respite for the defaulters. **BMB**

Defamation case against Rahul Gandhi quashed

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday quashed the defamation case filed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

The state unit of the party had alleged that Gandhi had shared a series of unsubstantiated allegations against the previous BJP-led government on the front pages of mainstream English and Kannada dailies, and also on X ahead of the 2023 Karnataka assembly elections.

Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav-headed bench has allowed Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's plea seeking quashing of the order passed by the Special Court of Representatives in Bengaluru.

"Continuation of the proceedings in the trial court would amount to an abuse of the process of law. Accordingly, the proceedings against the fourth accused, Rahul Gandhi, are set aside," the court ordered. **ANI**

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Dr Srikanth V is one of Bengaluru's distinguished plastic surgery specialists. For the past 25 years, he has been serving at Manipal Hospital, building a reputation rooted in clinical excellence and patient trust. Dr Srikanth V completed his MBBS from KMC Hospital and went on to pursue his postgraduate medical education at a prestigious university in the United Kingdom.

He further completed his DNB and MCh in Plastic Surgery from Sir JJ Hospital. Later, he served as a Professor at St. John's Hospital. Since 2007, he has been practising as a Plastic Surgeon at Manipal Hospital.

At present, he balances dual responsibilities as a lecturer shaping young doctors and as a Plastic Surgeon leading two departments.

In his two decades of professional life, he has performed more than 20,000 surgeries. Alongside his service as a Professor at St. John's Hospital, he continues his dedicated medical practice.

Dr Srikant V,
Consultant Plastic, Cosmetic and Hair Transplant Surgeon,
Clinique Belle
No. 461, 8th Main Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560034
Ph: 080-25520035, 994835 06268
Mob: 98452 80032
Email: drsrikanthy@gmail.com
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Dual Expertise

According to Dr Srikanth V, plastic surgery is broadly classified into two distinct domains: aesthetic surgery and reconstructive surgery. Aesthetic surgery focuses on enhancing physical appearance and refining body contour, while reconstructive surgery is directed at restoring form and function in patients affected by trauma, disease or congenital conditions.

Reconstructive procedures are undertaken to manage injuries resulting from road traffic accidents and other unforeseen events, as well as to correct structural defects arising from cancer and its treatment.

The objective is not merely cosmetic correction but functional rehabilitation and anatomical restoration.

Aesthetic surgery, on the other hand, is designed to improve physical proportions and overall appearance.

Beyond physical refinement, it often contributes to enhanced self esteem and psychological wellbeing. Dr Srikanth V notes that while aesthetic procedures are widely sought across different age groups and professions, they are particularly popular among individuals in the public eye, including celebrities.

Reconstructive surgery, on the other hand, helps correct congenital defects, accidental injuries to the face and hands, burn injuries, physical disabilities caused by accidents, and deformities resulting from cancer. For injuries caused in bike accidents, brachial plexus surgery is performed. Brachial plexus treatment methods are followed for paralysis affecting the shoulder, elbow or arm. These include nerve repair, nerve grafting and muscle transfer procedures. Treatment is customised to support the patient's individual functional recovery.

Hair transplantation is also a part of plastic surgery. In cases of significant hair loss, hair transplant can offer an effective solution. Apart from surgery, there are several non surgical treatments available to preserve hair.

A considerable number of people respond well to medical treatment, the doctor states.

Specialisations

- 1993 – MBBS, KMC Hospital
- MS – Nair Hospital, Mumbai
- 1997 – Fellowship, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Edinburgh and Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow
- 2001 – MCh (Plastic Surgery), Sir JJ Hospital
- Member, multiple national and international Plastic Surgery associations
- Published author in reputed Plastic Surgery journals
- Recognised at the World Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery, Barcelona, 2025
- Active marathon runner and long distance cyclist
- Participant, Ironman 70.3 triathlon (1.9 km swim, 90 km cycling, 21.1 km run)

Workers, seniors need refuge during peak heat

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

launched a joint initiative. The campaign aims to bring citizens together to demand the reinstatement of extended park hours, beginning with South Bengaluru. Key actions include sending collective letters to the GBA Chief Commissioner and zonal officials, conducting park access audits with volunteers, and highlighting the experiences of informal workers, domestic helps, gig workers, seniors, and others most affected by heat.

Vybhavi, program lead at HeatWatch Foundation, said, "Access to parks is not just about recreation. It's a matter of health, equity, and dignity. For daily wage workers, domestic helps, and seniors, shaded spaces provide a much-needed refuge during peak heat. Keeping parks closed during mid-day hours affects the most vulnerable residents."

Experts say parks that are open full-time provide multiple benefits: they reduce urban heat, improve air quality, encourage physical activity, promote mental well-being, and support social interactions across communities. Children can play safely, seniors can rest in the shade, and workers can take breaks without being exposed to harsh sun.

The Indian Ploggers Army, known for cleanups at lakes, parks, and public spaces, is supporting the campaign. Plog Raja, one of the group's coordinators, said, "We work closely with pourakarmikas and waste pickers, who benefit the most from open, accessible public spaces. This campaign is not just about extending park hours; it is about social inclusion, health, and respect for all citizens who rely on these spaces during hot months."

Residents across Bengaluru are being invited to join the campaign through a volunteer sign-up form, which will coordinate park audits, community outreach, and awareness initiatives. Organisers emphasise that this effort is more than about park timings; it is a fight for the right to rest, shade, and safe public spaces for all.

HeatWatch Foundation, works on public health, labour rights, and climate justice, has spent the past three years documenting the impact of rising temperatures on informal and low-income workers in the city, while Indian Ploggers Army has been actively promoting clean and accessible public spaces for communities, especially those who rely on them for daily respite from the heat.

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I, Santosh Kumar V M, residing at No. A106, A Block, Aryan Opulence, Near Srinivasapura Cross, Uttarahalli Kengeri Main Road, Channasandra, Rajarajeshwari nagar, Bangalore-560098, I have changed my son name to ROHIT S M from Rishaan Santosh Kumar Maradennavar vide affidavit dated : 16/02/2026 Before Notary N Sandhya.

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I, Sagar Modak S/O, Vishnu Modak R/o House No. 350, Patil Galli, Angol, Belgaum, Karnataka 590006 have changed my name to Sagar Vishnu Modak for all purposes.

NAME change from Mouneshwar Arkasali to Mouneshwar B Arkasali, located at Niranjan Genesis Apartment Bengaluru 560114.

I, SHAHA TAJ, R/a.#63, infront of Maseedi, Bettadasanapura, Bengaluru - 560068. I have Changed my name to SHATAJ, Vide affidavit, dated 13/02/2026 Sworn before Notary: N.Narayana Swamy. Bangalore

I, Muthu Mohan Harish Anirudh, S/o Muthu Mohan Thillai Chidambaram R/o 33, 2nd Cross, Adugodi, Bangalore 560030 have changed my name to Muthu Mohan Ananthi Harish Anirudh for all purposes

I Soumyashree Pavan Kumar R/o 3th floor 7/3,7th Cross,3rd Main Road, RIFCO Shantiniketan, Near water tank,Medihalli,Virgonagar,Bangalore-560049 have changed my name to Soumyashree Guruprasad

I, Triveni Ashok Kumar Reddy R/o No 555, 1st main, 1st cross, 8th block,Koramangala,Bengaluru 560095 have changed my name to Triveni Yeshwantpura Lakshminarayanareddy. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, Shamitha Shambu Shetty W/O, Sudeep Shetty R/o 1-184, Thenk Mane, Near Maraladevi Temple, Kundapura Taluk,hattiangadi, Udupi 576283. have changed my name to Shamitha Sudeep Shetty for all purposes

I, NEELAGANGA AINAPUR, Residing at No.12, 8th Main, 18th Cross, N S Palya Bangalore – 560076, have changed my name to NILAGANGA, vide affidavit dated 17/01/2026, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I Aathika w/o Mohammed Nayaz R/o 26 1st main Road 1st Cross Gangondanahalli Bangalore 560039 has Changed My Name From AATHIKA C To AATHIKA For all Future Purpose

I, Fahim Rukadikar, son of Mehboob Amir Rukadikar, declare that the names Fahim Rukadikar and Fahim Mehboob Rukadikar refer to one and the same person ie myself and that there is no change in my identity and both names belong to me.

I, NADEEM PASHA SHAIK AHMED, R/a #3,A Street, NK Palya 1st Cross Shivaji Road Shivajinagar, Bangalore – 51. I, have Changed my name to NADEEM PASHA, Vide affidavit, dated 17/02/2026 Sworn before Notary: G. Dayananda. Bangalore

VENKATA Ratnam Chellapila W/o Rabi Kumar Chellapila, R/o. 15104, PFPR Gummanahalli, Bangalore, Changed my Name as Venkat Ratnam Chellapila.

I, JAYAPRIYA, R/o 101,pristine residency,7th cross anandnagar,EC phase 2,Bengaluru-560100 changed my minor son's name as THASHVAANTH K from THASHVAANTH vide affidavit IN-KA81065650274064Y

I, WAJEEHA BANU, R/a #4, Noah Street, Shivajianagar, Bangalore-51. I, have Changed my name to WAJEEHA ADINA BANU, Vide affidavit, dated 17/02/2026 Sworn before notary G Dayananda Bangalore

I, Lilly Sunitha W/O, T Sajit R/o A106, Chartered Madhura, 7/1 Balaji Nagar, Uttarahalli Main Road, Simhadri Layout, Bengaluru 560061. have changed my name to Sunitha Sajit for all purposes.

I,THILOK.C R/o.No-7/8,2nd main,7th cross, shakambari nagar, jp nagar 1st phase B'luru 560078 have changed my name to Thiloknath Chatar Nath for all purposes.

I, MOHAMMED AATIF ABBAS, R/a .1st Cross, Mehdhi Nagara, Shimoga - 577201. I have Changed my name to MOHAMMAD AATIF ABBAS, Vide affidavit ,dated 13/02/2026 Sworn before Notary : MEER HASSAN. Bangalore

I, Javid Bashir Nathani s/o Bashir R/o 714/8, 5th main, Gokula 1st stage, 2nd ph, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru 560022 have changed my name to Javid Bashir. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, S M MAHESH, Residing at No.66, 5th Main, 4th Crs, Ahbco Lyt, Anjaneya Nagara, Bangalore – 560085, have changed my name to S M MAHESHA, vide affidavit dated 17/01/2026, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore

I Nasima Ashraf Lamba D/O, Zaiker R/o Plat No 101 Gad Galaxy No 33/1 8th Main Road 1st Stage 4th Phase Gokula K N Extension Yeshwanthpura Bangalore 560022 have changed my name to Nasima Ashraf.

I, M Jai Sasirekha W/O, Sendil Kumar R/o Vimalalaya Hospital Near Sfs School Huskur Gate Post Electronic City Bangalore 560100 have changed my name to Shashi Rekha for all purposes.

I, Usha Suresh Kumar Dugar R/o No.87, 1st floor, HB samaja road, Basavanagudi Bengaluru 560004 have changed my name to Usha Devi. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, Yuvraj Singh, son of Bhan Singh, residing at Alankar Building, Chickpet, Bangalore, hereby declare that Yuvraj Singh B V and Yuvraj Singh are the same person.

LOST & FOUND

LOST DOCUMENT

I, Mrs. Sravani Bipothu, r/ at Flat No 4 Alakananda Apartment 2nd A Cross Nagarabhavi, Bangalore 560072 purchased a property from Mrs. Sapna Subramani under Sale Deed No. RRN-1-02633-2021-22. The original BDA Khata Certificate bearing No. BDA/RO/W/795/2012-13, issued in the name of Mrs. Sapna Subramani, has been lost while travelling in Vijayanagar, Bengaluru. Police complaint given vide L R No. 2066954/2026 dt. 17.02.2026. If found please call 9901477388

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Team recovers from early stumble, backed by Glenn Phillip's 76 & Rachin Ravindra's 59

New Zealand storm past Canada to reach Super 8s

New Zealand's Glenn Phillips and Rachin Ravindra run between the wickets during the match between New Zealand and Canada at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Tuesday

Canada 173/4 (20)

New Zealand 176/2 (15.1)

Stand-in captain Daryl Mitchell lauded New Zealand's depth after the Black Caps cruised to an eight-wicket win over Canada at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, securing their spot in the Super 8s.

Chasing 174, New Zealand recovered from an early wobble at 30/2, with Glenn Phillips' 76 not out and Rachin Ravindra's unbeaten 59 anchoring a match-winning partnership of more than 100 runs.

On the early dismissals of Finn Allen and Tim Seifert, Daryl, who stood as captain in place of Mitchell Santner, said, "We back everyone in the side. We obviously got the Bash Brothers up top who do their thing. It's the nature of, I guess, how we try to line up with our team is that we know we bat really deep and everyone can get the job done on the day."

Daryl also praised Canada's 19-year-old Yuvraj Samra, who scored 110 to power Canada to 173/4.

"He played beautifully and I think, yeah, on that surface, which looked like a pretty nice pitch to keep them to 170 when a guy gets 110, it was a great effort by our boys. But I take my hat off to him. He played really well," Mitchell said.

Commenting on the pitch and the atmosphere, he added, "I thought it was a great pitch. I love playing here at Chepauk. Obviously, a number of us have been a part of the CSK family here as well over our time. So yeah, we love playing in front of these crowds."

On Santner's fitness, he noted, "He's obviously felt a bit poor, but he seems to be improving as the day goes on. But yeah, I think he'll be fine for the next one, I'm sure."

Looking ahead to the Super 8s, Mitchell said, "Really excited to get to Colombo tomorrow now and prepare for the Super 8s. It's the first box ticked off that we wanted to achieve in this tournament. And now we'll look forward to the upcoming games."

New Zealand's emphatic chase, powered by a brutal middle-order partnership, reinforced their standing as one of the tournament's favourites, bouncing back strongly from their loss to South Africa. —IANS

Today's matches

- South Africa V/S United Arab Emirates — 11.00 am
- Pakistan V/S Namibia — 03.00 pm
- India V/S Netherlands — 07.00 pm

Fans wait at the stadium as rain delays the match between Ireland and Zimbabwe at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Pallekele on Tuesday

Zimbabwe enter Super 8s after washout against Ireland

Zimbabwe on Tuesday entered the Super 8 stage of the T20 World Cup after their crucial Group B match against Ireland was washed out due to rain, a result that also eliminated former champions Australia and Ireland from the tournament.

Both teams were awarded one point each. The shared points took Zimbabwe to five, enough to secure a Super 8 berth. They will face India in their opening Super 8 match on February 26 in Chennai.

Zimbabwe became the seventh team to get a ticket to the Super 8s, completing group G1 also comprising India, South Africa and West Indies.

Zimbabwe will play their final group match against co-hosts Sri Lanka on February 19.

With table-toppers Sri Lanka (6) having already qualified for the Super 8s, the contest held significant importance for Zimbabwe and Ireland, who had come into the game with four and two points respectively.

Australia were also on two points following their defeats to Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka.

The former champions needed Zimbabwe to lose both their remaining matches to stay in contention, but persistent rain ended their hopes.

The toss at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium was initially delayed due to drizzle, with the ground remaining under covers for a considerable period.

However, continuous rain and a wet outfield prevented any play, confirming Zimbabwe's progression to the Super 8 stage. —PTI

Playing India in India: 'It's massive'

A red-hot India is expected to steamroll the Netherlands in their final T20 World Cup league fixture on Wednesday but the Dutch are not intimidated by that prospect.

They are instead psyched about playing at the world's largest cricket stadium, with a capacity of 1.32 lakh, which even at half full would have more people in attendance than the Dutch fans who show up to support their more popular and infinitely more successful football team.

"Playing India in India at the world's largest stadium, it is massive for us. More people would be attending tomorrow's game than the Dutch fans who turn up for their team in a FIFA World Cup," John van Vliet, who handles media and marketing for the Netherlands team, told PTI.

Netherlands' players during a practice session ahead of their match with India, at Narendra Modi Stadium, in Ahmedabad

"The sponsors back home should see the value in that but so far they have not," Vliet said on the eve of the game.

The stadium's seats are orange, the colour of Netherlands' sports teams which are popularly called 'Oranje'. The story of Netherlands mirrors the majority of the semi-professional associate teams taking part in the 20-nation T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka.

It was three days before their tournament-opener that the Netherlands were able to rope in a sponsor.

Expectedly it was an Indian sponsor that came to their rescue, just like it was the case in the 2023 ODI World Cup.

Financial service firm Globe came on board just three days before the tournament began but Vliet is hoping their association lasts longer than the duration of the tournament.

The Netherlands have been a regular in ICC events but the sport still remains on the margins in a football-mad nation. The team has had Dutch companies sponsoring them briefly but they too had an Indian connection.

"We are hoping we do well against India in our final game and that could lead to more commercial tie ups in the future," added Vliet referring to the team's imminent exit from the tournament. The Netherlands captain Scott Edwards said, "It's a great opportunity to test yourselves against the best." —PTI

Sporty spirit

Nepal's Sompal Kami, left, with a teammate celebrates after the wicket of Scotland's Michael Jones during the match between Scotland and Nepal, at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, Tuesday. Both teams are out of the race for the Super 8 and are playing for bragging rights.

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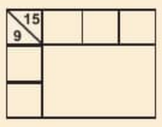
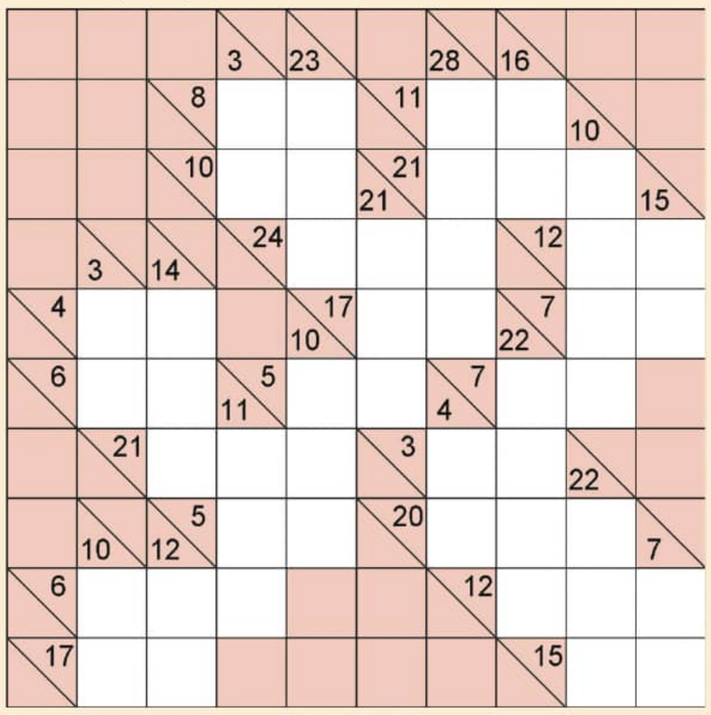
Kakuro

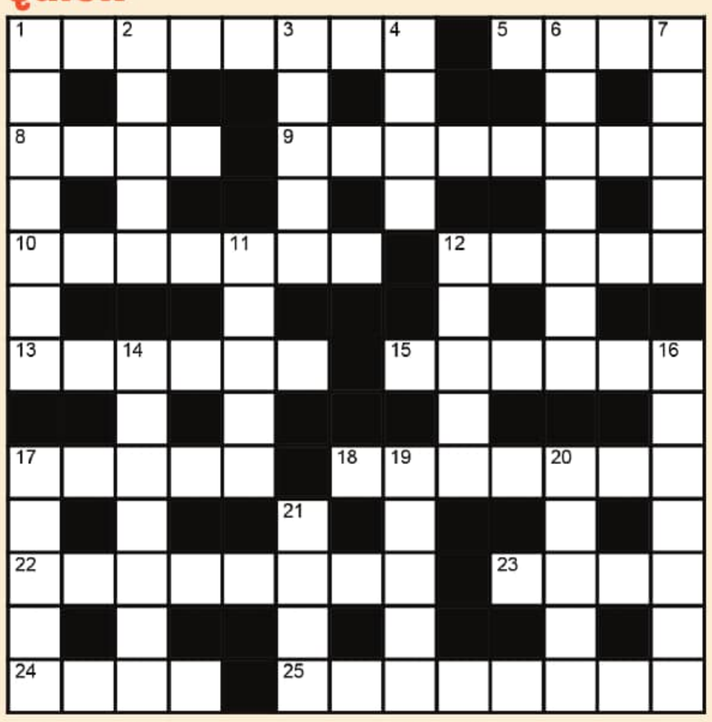
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Compassionate (8)
5 Look furtively (4)
8 Golden Fleece ship (4)
9 Tourist destination famous for white water rafting (8)
10 Within a building (7)
12 Drums informally (5)
13 Worldwide (6)
15 Protuberant belly (6)
17 To unfasten (5)
18 Indicating a choice (7)
22 Copied (8)
23 Gambling cubes (4)
24 To want badly (4)
25 Pacifies (8)

DOWN

1 Groaning or complaining (7)
2 Not flexible (5)
3 Mendicant monk ? (5)
4 Branch (4)
6 Strong feeling (7)
7 Flakes off (5)
11 Come _ ___: mature or grow up (2,3)
12 Humiliation (5)
14 Exterior (7)
16 Solidifies (7)
17 Joint or bond (5)
19 Water snake in Greek mythology (5)
20 Lift (5)
21 Desist (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: T EQUALS G

WRBOJMXGRBNRT BKOM RKX SWJO OZNC, LWX NX NM G BOVNRNXO AOCE, NRGMQWSA GM KRO SGR SKEO HNXA G SKQEJOAORMNLCO BGJDROMM.

Linemaro

It's not my fault that I fell in love. You are the one who tripped me

Mindchow

Sing like the birds sing, not worrying about who hears or what they think

Joke of the day

When a man talks dirty to a woman, its sexual harassment; when a woman talks dirty to a man, it's $3.95 per minute

Loop

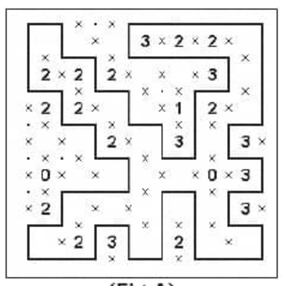
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

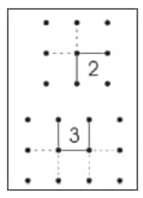
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

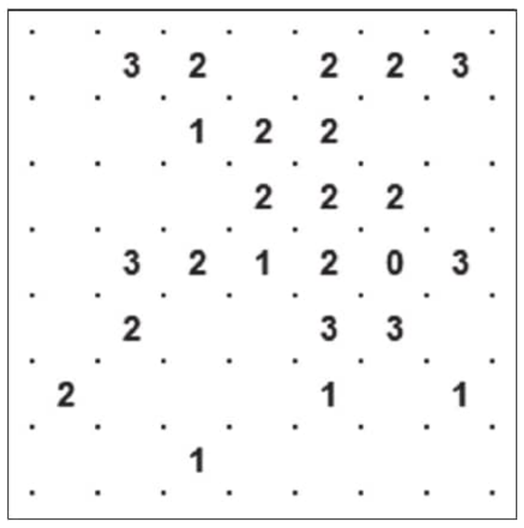
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



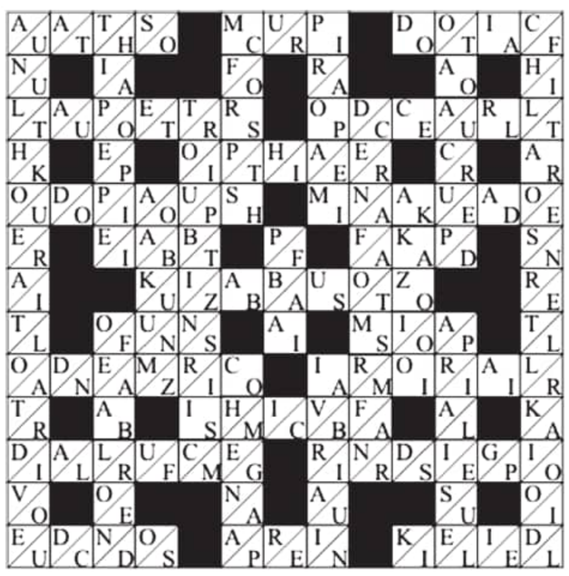
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				K
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

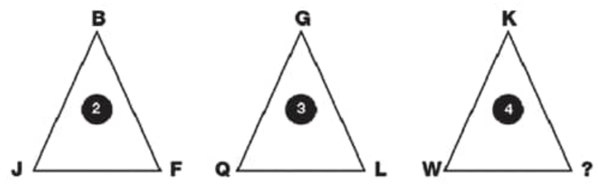
1 Sac us; 6 OK PLN; 7 A taro; 8 Inn or; 9 Punks

DOWN

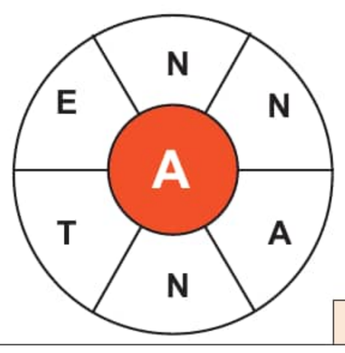
1 Paras; 2 Pools; 3 On cur; 4 In nut; 5 Ask KN

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the sequence?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; **02** Good; **03** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2		3	1	9		7		8
		5				1		4
					8			
	8		2		1			5
4								1
7			6		3		9	
			9					
3		4				5		
1		9		8	2	4		7

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 14

3 3 5 9

Medium = 13

5 5 6 6

Hard = 8

2 4 8 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

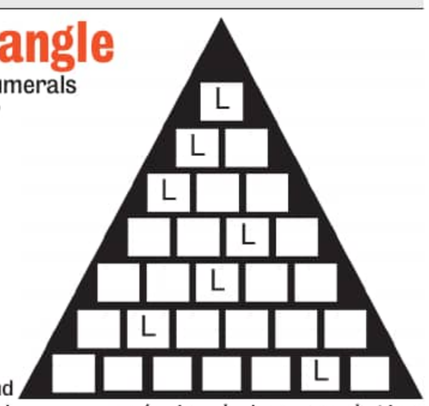
Differences: 1. Other hand is showing. 2. Book is larger. 3. Hair is different. 4. Shade is higher. 5. Pillow is smaller. 6. Headboard is wider.

Riddler

Fill in the blank with a word that rhymes with one of these three words, is a synonym of another one of these three words and is an anagram of the last of these three words

Alpha triangle

1 Fifty in Roman numerals
2 Behold's partner
3 Zodiac figure
4 Seafood item
5 Acting jobs
6 Not so fast
7 Plastering tools

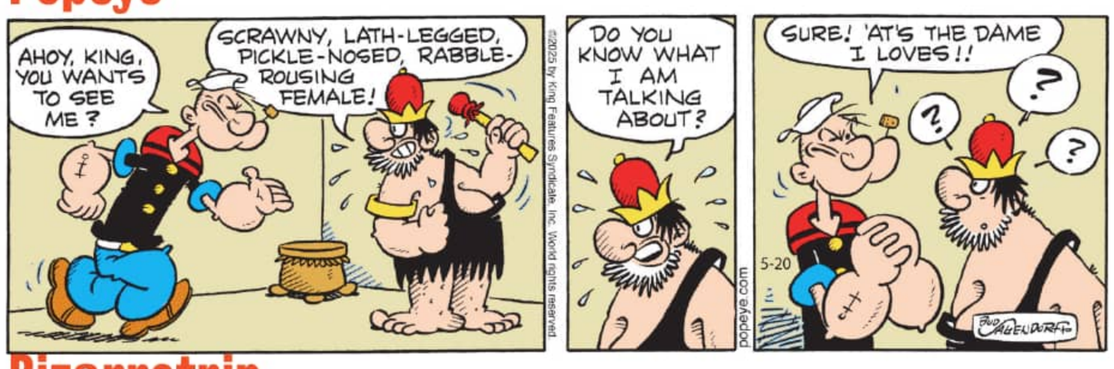


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

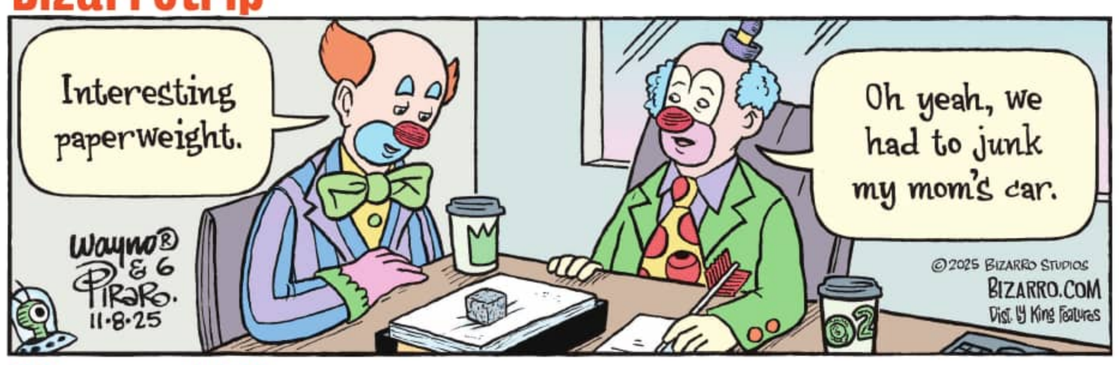
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

HARVEY CORNTASSLE BOUGHT A USED HEADSTONE
USED?
HEY, IT WAS 70 PERCENT OFF
REALLY?!
NOW ALL HE HAS TO DO IS DIE ON MAY 14TH AND CHANGE HIS NAME TO ETHEL WHALEBONE
SUCH A DEAL
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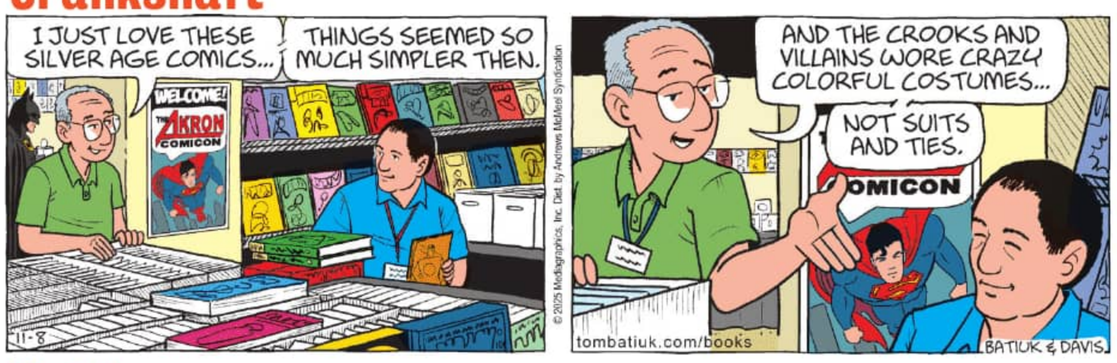
Hart of the city

UGH! WHERE'S MY TRAVEL CUP?!
OH, MAN... I LEFT IT ON THE KITCHEN COUNTER.
YOU SHOULD ATTACH IT TO YOUR BACKPACK.
WITH WHAT? A BELT? HANDCUFFS?
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO HUMANKIND'S GREATEST INVENTION: THE CARABINER.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL

Crankshaft


I JUST LOVE THESE SILVER AGE COMICS...
THINGS SEEMED SO MUCH SIMPLER THEN.
WELCOME! THE AKRON COMICON
AND THE CROOKS AND VILLAINS WORE CRAZY COLORFUL COSTUMES...
NOT SUITS AND TIES.
tombatiuk.com/books
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

This year focuses on your public image and professional legacy. Career success is prominent, with rewards for your hard work arriving early. In love, focus on building mutual respect and long-term goals. Your domestic life is a source of pride and joy. Travel to bustling cities sparks new ideas. Financial stability allows you to support a cause.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
High energy allows you to complete your tasks with speed and efficiency today. Use this momentum to pursue your passions and enjoy the satisfaction that comes from a very productive.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Stability at home provides a peaceful sanctuary for you today. Cherish the time spent with family, as these connections offer the emotional support you need to thrive in all areas.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Your quick wit and charm make you the life of the party today. Enjoy the social interactions, as your positive energy attracts interesting people and creates wonderful new life memories.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Focus on your personal growth today by trying something new and exciting. Stepping outside your routine will provide fresh perspectives and lead to a much deeper understanding of your potential.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Your creative talents are highlighted today, so share them with the world. Your unique artistic vision is truly inspiring, and your contributions will be met with great appreciation and enthusiasm.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Practical solutions help you navigate today's challenges with ease. Your grounded approach ensures that you stay on track and achieve your goals with a great sense of clarity and confidence.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is perfect for fostering harmony in all your relationships. Your diplomatic nature helps you resolve any conflicts and create a supportive, peaceful environment for yourself and those you love.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Your intuition is very strong today, guiding you toward wise decisions. Trust your inner voice when navigating complex situations, and you will find the path that leads to your success.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Optimistic energy surrounds you today, making it a great time for planning. Focus on your future dreams, as your positive mind-set attracts the resources and people needed to achieve them.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Discipline and hard work lead to significant progress today. Stay focused on your priorities, and you will find that your dedication results in the long-term success you have been seeking.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Your innovative ideas lead to exciting breakthroughs at work today. Share your unique perspective with your team, as your contributions have the power to transform projects and lead to success.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Focus on your emotional well-being today by practicing self-care. Nurturing your heart ensures you have the strength and clarity to pursue your dreams with confidence and a very peaceful spirit.

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Akhilesh Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
4-8+6(-1) / 4-4 =
4-8-3 / 4-4 =
4-8-0.75-4 =
-8.75

BULL'S EYE
ante, ANTENNA, neat

STRIKE OUT

A	A	H	S		C	U	P		O	T	T	I	C	
U		I			O		R		O		C		I	
T	A	P	E	R	S		O	C	C	U	L	T		
H		P		O	T	H	E	R		R		R		
O	D	I	O	U	S		M	A	K	E	D	O		
R		E	A	T		F		F	A	D		N		
T		F	U	N		K	I	B	B	U	T	Z		E
I		F	U	N		I		S	O	P		L		
A	D	A	M	I	C		A	M	O	R	A	L		
T		B		S	H	I	V	A		A		A		
I	L	L	U	M	E		I	N	D	I	G	O		
V		E		A		A		A		D		I		
E	D	D	O		P	E	N		K	E	E	L		

QUICK

N					P	L	A	C	A	T	E	S		
O					D		O		R		S			
I				M	I	T	A	T	E	D	I	C	E	
N				S			S		Y		O		D	
U	N	T	I	E		W	H	E	T	H	E	R		
		U		G				M				A		
G	L	O	B	A	L		P	A	U	N	C	H		
N				F				H		O				
I	N	D	O	O	R	S		S	K	I	N	S		
N		I		I		B			T			L		
A	R	G	O		K	E	M	P	H	O	L	E		
O		I		A		I			M			E		
M	E	R	C	I	F	U	L		P	E	E	P		

MENSA PUZZLE
Q. Starting at the top of each triangle, letters progress clockwise in increments given by the central number plus 2.

RIDDLER Shore

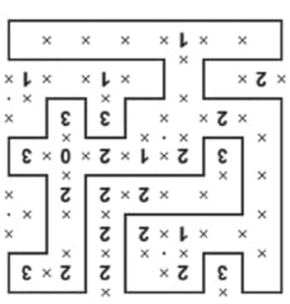
SUDOKU

2	4	3	1	9	5	7	6	8
8	9	5	3	6	7	1	2	4
6	1	7	4	2	8	9	5	3
9	8	6	2	7	1	3	4	5
4	3	2	8	5	9	6	7	1
7	5	1	6	4	3	8	9	2
5	7	8	9	3	4	2	1	6
3	2	4	7	1	6	5	8	9
1	6	9	5	8	2	4	3	7

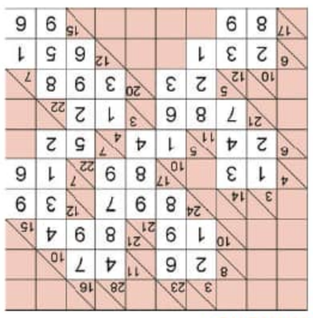
ALPHA TRIANGLE
L, Lo, Leo, Sole, Roles, Slower, Trowels.

GO FIGURE
3 + 9 - 3 + 5 = 14
5 x 5 - 6 - 6 = 13
Medium
8 x 4 / 8 x 2 = 8
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO



FAST FIVE

A	S	C	U	S
P	L	O	N	K
A	O	R	T	A
R	O	N	I	N
S	P	U	N	K

QUOTE UNCODE
Understanding does not cure evil, but it is a definite help, inasmuch as one can cope with a comprehensible darkness.

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 # Keep the love
Hollywood actress Jessica Alba and her boyfriend Danny Ramirez were seen packing PDA and spending some quality time after actress finalises divorce

Celebratory mood

Nayanthara excited about state award, multiple honours, upcoming films

Superstar Nayanthara penned a heartfelt note reflecting on the Tamil Nadu State Film Awards. She won the Best Actress award for 2017 for her performance in Aramm, in which she essayed the role of a district collector. On Tuesday, she took to social media and shared a note expressing gratitude and thanking the government for the honour. Besides the Best Actress award, her film Netrikann won the 2021 Best Film About Women Empowerment special prize, while Koozhangal, which she produced with her husband Vignesh Sivan, won the 2020 Best Film award.

In a note shared on Instagram, Nayanthara said, "My sincere gratitude to the Government of Tamil Nadu for honouring me with the State Award for Aramm. Also deeply thankful for the State Awards for Netrikann and Koozhangal for our production house @ therowdypictures. Three State Awards for the hous Truly blessed."

Meanwhile, Aramm is a gripping thriller directed by Gopi Nainar. The film revolves around the efforts of a district collector to rescue a child who accidentally falls into a borewell. Nayanthara's portrayal of District Collector Mathivathani was widely appreciated.

What's next for Nayanthara?

Nayanthara will be next seen in 'Patriot' starring Mammootty and Mohanlal. The film also has Fahadh Faasil and Kunchacko Boban in pivotal roles. The upcoming Malayalam film is helmed by acclaimed director Mahesh Narayanan. 'Patriot' is scheduled to hit screens worldwide on April 23 this year. The makers earlier dropped a teaser, which hinted that the film might be an espionage thriller. Fahadh Faasil recently revealed that he is playing the antagonist in the film. On the other hand, Nayanthara also has 'Toxic' in the pipeline. She will be seen essaying the role of Ganga in the Yash starrer. —ETimes

Silent no more

Director Anubhav Sinha has spoken candidly about the creative and emotional challenges behind his upcoming social drama Assi, starring Taapsee Pannu as a lawyer representing a sexual assault survivor played by Kani Kusruti. The film's trailer immediately sets a sombre tone, highlighting the stark reality that around 80 rape cases are reported daily in India. Reflecting on this statistic, Sinha noted that such crimes occur with alarming frequency, underscoring the urgency of the conversation the film hopes to spark.

With Assi, Sinha aims to examine patriarchy and the culture of silence surrounding sexual violence, arguing that the problem stems from systemic conditioning passed down through generations rather than isolated acts. He pointed out that while young girls are often warned about potential danger, boys are rarely taught about consent and gender equality, revealing a deep social imbalance.

Sinha collaborated with writer Gaurav Solanki on the screenplay, acknowledging the difficulty of approaching the story from a woman's perspective as male creators. He said they consciously tried to view each scene through a female lens, immersing themselves in stories about women to better understand their experiences.

Reuniting with Taapsee Pannu was a deliberate choice, with Sinha praising her sincerity and commitment. Following their earlier collaborations like Mulk and Thappad, Assi continues his tradition of issue-driven cinema, aiming to challenge societal attitudes while centering a survivor's voice.

—ETimes

Farah's secret, Sushmita's twist

Shah Rukh Khan and Sushmita Sen's Main Hoon Na remain one of the most loved Bollywood films, remembered for its charm, music, and memorable characters. Directed by Farah Khan in her directorial debut, the 2004 blockbuster also featured Amrita Rao, Zayed Khan, and Suniel Shetty in key roles. While audiences adored the on-screen chemistry between SRK and Sushmita, Farah recently revealed an interesting casting detail — Sushmita was not her first choice for the role of Chandni.

In a recent vlog during a visit to Sameera Reddy's home in Goa, Farah shared that she had initially considered Sameera for the part after noticing her in the popular music video "Aahista Kijiye Baatein," where she appeared in Indian attire. Farah recalled being impressed by her presence and screen appeal. Sameera, clearly surprised by the revelation, asked why she wasn't ultimately cast.

Farah explained that by then Sameera had already signed her debut film Maine Dil Tujhko Diya opposite Sohail Khan, which led to the change in casting. —ETimes

AI photo backlash

Rapper Nicki Minaj has recently faced criticism over her continued public support for U.S. President Donald Trump, with her latest social media post sparking widespread debate online. On February 17, the 'Anaconda' hitmaker shared a series of hyper realistic AI-generated images showing her seated beside Trump in a car. In the images, Trump appears dressed in head-to-toe bedazzled pink attire while driving, as Minaj sits in the passenger seat counting cash. She captioned the post, "Happy #PresidentsDay."

The images initially left many viewers confused, with several questioning whether they were real. However, some users quickly pointed out details suggesting manipulation, including what appeared to be a reflection of Minaj's partner, Kenneth Petty, indicating that the visuals had likely been edited using artificial intelligence technology.

Social media reactions were swift and sharply divided. Critics flooded the comments section, with some expressing disappointment and others calling the post embarrassing. Users questioned her stance contradicting earlier image. —ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Golden star returns

Director Ramenahalli Jagannatha, known for Kannada films Hondisi Bareyiri and Theertharoopa Thandeyavarige, has expressed excitement about directing his next project Thamma Sukhagamana Bayasuva, starring Golden Star Ganesh in the lead. The film is being produced by Vijay Lohith in association with Sathish H Gowda under the Vaishnavi Films banner. The muhurat ceremony was held at Kanteerava Studios on the occasion of Mahashivratri, with Ganesh's wife Shilpa giving the clap for the inaugural shot.

Addressing the gathering, Jagannatha described February 15 as a golden day in his career. He recalled that he was pursuing engineering when Ganesh's blockbuster Mungaru Male released in 2006 and said he watched the film multiple times.

"Today, I feel proud and excited to direct a film with Ganesh as the hero," he said.

Prajwal leads Cheetah

The shooting of the Kannada film Cheetah has been completed with the filming of a duet song at Rockline Studios, marking a significant milestone for the project. Veteran choreographer Raja Kalai, who has been associated with the Kannada film industry for over two decades, is making his directorial debut with this film. The movie stars Prajwal Devaraj and Megha Shetty in the lead roles and is produced by Prathiba under the Rajalakshmi Entertainment banner. A grand set was specially erected at Rockline Studios for the duet sequence.

Speaking about the film, Raja Kalai said that Cheetah revolves around a youth born and brought up in a market. Prajwal Devaraj plays the central character who takes on irregularities and illegal activities affecting the market community. The film blends commercial elements such as love, sentiment, action, and comedy. Market set built at HMT; Prajwal plays beloved youth fighting chemical mafia, film features strong supporting cast ensemble.